



BRUCE BRALEY
SERVING IOWA'S 1ST
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Congressman Bruce Braley: Fighting to Expand Dental Services

In the 111th Congress, serving as a Member of the Subcommittee on Health under the Committee on Energy & Commerce, and playing an integral role in Health Care Reform

- As a Member of the Subcommittee on Health, Rep. Braley is in a good position to fight for Iowa dentists as legislation is drafted and moves towards passage.

Rep. Braley has inserted multiple pieces of legislation into the House Health Care Reform bill – HR 3962, Affordable Health Care for America Act:

- The House bill will include **Braley language to move Medicare reimbursements towards a system that incentivizes based on high-value care.** The language calls for an Institute of Medicine (IOM) study on fundamentally changing the Medicare reimbursement system to one that incentivizes high-value care, then Congress gets an up-or-down vote on whether to enact the recommendations or not. Iowa currently has very high-value care, and would benefit under such a system.
- The House bill also includes **Braley language for a second IOM study of the accuracy and validity of geographic adjusters under Medicare** (the Geographic Practice Cost Indexes and the Wage Index). If the adjusters are found to be inaccurate, then any communities which have been unfairly impacted by Medicare's geographic adjusters will see immediate corrections. **\$8 billion is provided to go to communities which need immediate adjustments to their providers' reimbursements** because of the unfair impact of the geographic adjusters.
- The House bill includes Braley language from his Plain Language in Health Insurance Act to **mandate that insurance companies, private plans or the public option, write all documents for the public in plain language**, including on the Exchange website, to ease consumer understanding of their policy and benefits.
- The House bill **extends the 1.0 Floor for the Work Geographic Practice Cost Index by 2 years.** Rep. Braley has fought to extend this Floor, as it ensures more adequate Medicare reimbursements for Iowa providers under Part B.
- The House bill **significantly increases funding of the National Health Service Corps**, which is a scholarship and student loan repayment program for dentists who practice in underserved areas.

Rep. Braley supported the House Health Care Reform bill, which also includes minimum standards of dental coverage

- In addition to the various provisions inserted by Rep. Braley that expand access to dental care, the House Health Care Reform bill contains a minimum benefits package for health insurance that mandates health plans include oral benefits for all beneficiaries under 21 years old.

Passed legislation in 2008 to reauthorize and expand the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), since authoring and introducing HR 2915, the National Health Service Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs Reauthorization Act of 2007

- Rep. Braley's legislation would reauthorize and increase funding for the NHSC program, which provides scholarships and student loan repayment to dentists who pledge to practice in

underserved areas like Iowa. This expansion will help recruit more dentists to Iowa, which will improve access to dental care in the state.

- Rep. Braley achieved his goal, inserting language into HR 1343, which passed the House and Senate and was presented to the President on September 30, 2008. This legislation reauthorizes the NHSC and increases the program's funding by more than \$40 million to over \$185 million, which will help bring more dentists, doctors, nurses, social workers, mental health professionals, and others to Iowa.

Fighting for Iowa's Dental Home Project, also known as I-Smile, to provide dental care to Iowa children

- Rep. Braley is fighting for federal funding for this project, which will ensure that thousands of Iowa children are provided with necessary dental screenings and preventive, diagnostic, treatment, and emergency dental services.

In the 110th Congress, cosponsor of HR 2472, Essential Oral Health Care Act, which increases Medicaid and SCHIP funding for children's dental services and oral health

- The bill will improve the federal funding match for children's dental and oral health services under Medicaid and SCHIP for states that ensure children have access to dental care, decrease administrative barriers to dentists, and increase payments for dental services under State plans.
- H.R. 2472 also authorizes funding to pilot test new mid-level allied dental health providers, who will serve the dual roles as patient navigators and oral health providers in underserved communities, and authorize funding for volunteer dental projects provided by community based organizations.
- Finally, the bill provides a limited tax credit to dentists who donate dental services to low income individuals (not to exceed 200% of the FPL), which will help provide more access for low income adults, for example, who are often not covered by the public programs.

Fighting to increase dental resources for those who need them in America

- In the 110th Congress, Rep. Braley cosponsored the HR 2371, *Deamonte's Law*, which would provide grants to health centers, schools, and hospitals for improved and expanded dental services.

In the 110th Congress, cosponsor of HR 3186, Meth Mouth Prevention and Community Recovery Act, to provide more resources and education to dentists, students, and medical research regarding the dangers of meth mouth

- This bill does the following makes grants available for educating 12 to 17 year-olds about meth mouth (with an eye on preventing first-time methamphetamine use); expands and intensifies the Department of Health and Human Services' clinical, health services, and public health research on associations between substance use disorders, oral health, and the provision of dental care; authorizes a study to determine whether, how, and to what degree methamphetamine use affects the demand for (and provision of) dental care; and promotes a series of continuing education activities for dentists to learn about substance use disorders and their relationship to oral health and the provision of dental care.

In the 110th Congress, cosponsor of HR 3187, Meth Mouth Correctional Costs and Reentry Support Act, to ensure correctional facilities have adequate dental resources

- This bill expands and intensifies the Justice Department's research on the oral health status of jail and prison inmates and the provision of dental care in correctional facilities; authorizes a study to determine whether, how, and to what degree methamphetamine use affects the demand for (and provision of) dental care in correctional facilities; makes short-term, needs-based grants available for the hiring of ancillary dentists in correctional facilities; and directs the Attorney General to ensure that oral health and dental care are made part of the Justice Department's many prisoner reentry initiatives.